AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A code conversion method of receiving a first code string to convert the first code string into a second code string, and to output the same, the method comprising:

generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method; and

judging whether the decoded signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal by using information contained in the undecoded first code string, and encoding the decoded signal in accordance with an encoding method on the basis of the judgment to generate a second code string,

wherein the generating step includes an audio decoding step and a non-audio decoding step;

the audio decoding step comprises receiving a first code corresponding to an audio parameter contained in the first code string when the information corresponds to an audio section, and decoding an audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputting the decoded audio signal as the decoded signal; and

the non-audio decoding step comprises receiving a second code corresponding to a non-audio parameter contained in the first code when the information corresponds to a non-audio section, decoding a non-audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputting the decoded non-audio signal as the decoded signal.

Claims 2-4. (Cancelled).

2

5. (Previously Presented) A code conversion device for receiving a first code string compliant with a first encoding method to convert the first code string into a second code string compliant with a second encoding method, and to output the same, comprising:

an audio decoding device for generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method; and

an audio encoding device for judging whether the decoded signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal using information contained in the undecoded first code string, and encoding the decoded signal in accordance with the encoding method on the basis of the judgment to generate the second code string,

wherein the audio decoding device includes an audio decoding circuit and a non-audio decoding circuit;

the audio decoding circuit receives a first code corresponding to an audio parameter contained in the first code string when the information corresponds to an audio section, and decodes an audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputs the decoded audio signal as the decoded signal; and

the non-audio decoding circuit receives a second code corresponding to a non-audio parameter contained in the first code when the information corresponds to a non-audio section, decodes a non-audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputs the decoded non-audio signal as the decoded signal.

Claims 6-8. (Cancelled).

3

9. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a code conversion program for use in operating a program controlled processor device that constitutes a code conversion device responsive to a first code string so as to convert the first code string into a second code string, the program making the program-controlled processor device execute the steps of:

(a) generating a first decoded audio signal from the first code string by a decoding method; and

(b) judging whether the decoded signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal by using information contained in the undecoded first code string, and encoding the decoded signal by the encoding method based on the judgment to generate a second code string,

wherein the generating step includes an audio decoding step and a non-audio decoding step;

the audio decoding step comprises receiving a first code corresponding to an audio parameter contained in the first code string when the information corresponds to an audio section, and decoding an audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputting the decoded audio signal as the decoded signal; and

the non-audio decoding step comprises receiving a second code corresponding to a non-audio parameter contained in the first code when the information corresponds to a non-audio section, decoding a non-audio signal from the first code by the decoding method, and outputting the decoded non-audio signal as the decoded signal.

Claims 10-12. (Cancelled).

4

13. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim [[12]] 1, wherein the first code string and the second code string are encoded by encoding methods different from each other.

14. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim [[12]] 1, wherein the first code string and the second code string are encoded by the same encoding method.

Claims 15-22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) The code conversion device according to claim 5, wherein the first encoding method is different from the second encoding method.

24. (New) The code conversion device according to claim 5, wherein the first encoding method is the same as the second encoding method.

25. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 9, wherein the first code string and the second code string are encoded by encoding methods different from each other.

26. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 9, wherein the first code string and the second code string are encoded by the same encoding method.

27. (New) A code conversion method of receiving a first code string to convert the first code string into a second code string, and to output the same, the method comprising;

judging whether the first code string corresponds to an audio section or a non-audio section by using information contained in an undecoded first code string;

generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method on the basis of the judgment; and

encoding the decoded signal in accordance with an encoding method to generate the second code string;

wherein the encoding step includes an audio encoding step and a non-audio encoding step;

the audio encoding step comprises receiving an audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the audio section;

encoding the audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded audio signal as the second code string; and

the non-audio encoding step comprises receiving a non-audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the non-audio section, encoding the non-audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded non-audio signal as the second code string.

28. (New) A code conversion device for receiving a first code string compliant with a first encoding method to convert the first code string into a second code string compliant with a second encoding method and to output the same, the code conversion device comprising:

6

a judging device for judging whether the first code string corresponds to an audio section or a non-audio section by using information contained in an undecoded first code string;

a generating device for generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method on the basis of the judgment;

an encoding device for encoding the decoded signal in accordance with an encoding method to generate the second code string;

wherein the encoding device includes an audio encoding device and a non-audio encoding device;

the audio encoding device comprises:

a receiving device for receiving an audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the audio section;

an encoding device for encoding the audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded audio signal as the second code string; and

the non-audio encoding device comprises:

a receiving device for receiving a non-audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the non-audio section and

an encoding device for encoding the non-audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded non-audio signal as the second code string.

29. (New) A computer readable medium storing a code conversion program for use in operating a program controlled processor device that constitutes a code conversion device responsive to a first code string so as to convert the first code string into a second code string, the program making the program controlled processor execute the steps of:

judging whether the first code string corresponds to an audio section or a non-audio section by using information contained in an undecoded first code string;

generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method on the basis of the judgment; and encoding the decoded signal in accordance with an encoding method to generate the second code string;

wherein the encoding step includes an audio encoding step and a non-audio encoding step;

the audio encoding step comprises receiving an audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the audio section;

encoding the audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded audio signal as the second code string; and

the non-audio encoding step comprises receiving a non-audio signal generated from the first code string when the information corresponds to the non-audio section, encoding the non-audio signal by the encoding method, and outputting the encoded non-audio signal as the second code string.